

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11442

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, CH, US

SUBJ: PM MIKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA COMMENT ON JAPAN, CHINA, US RE-
LATIONSHIPS

SUMMARY: WHILE NOT BACKING AWAY FROM EARLIER STATEMENTS, BOTH PM MIKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA IN DIET HEARINGS SOFTENED EDGES OF MIYAZAWA'S RECENT REMARKS ON US-PRC RELATIONS AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES WHICH HAVE IRRITATED PEKING. MIKI TOLD DIETMEN HE WOULD TRAVEL TO CHINA IF NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE THE PEACE/FRIEDNSHIP TREATY AND SAID JAPAN SHOULD NOT COMMENT ON US-PRC RELATIONS OR ON THE US SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN. THIS MAY END THE "INCIDENT" IF NOT THE ISSUE. CORROBORATING THIS POINT, A CHINESE OFFICIAL HAS TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WHY MIYAZAWA THOUGHT AS HE DID BUT CHASTIZED THE FONMIN FOR PUBLICIZING HIS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF CHINA DIVISION (MINE) HAS CONFIRMED ACCURACY OF FOLLOWING PRESS ACCOUNT EXCERPTS OF PM MIKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS ON JAPAN-PRC AND US-PRC RELATIONS: BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:
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PM MIKI TOLD DIET LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE JULY 28

THAT OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY WAS A BASIC JAPANESE POLICY. PEACE FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT) NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN DELAYED AND IT IS NECESSARY TO OVERCOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND CONCLUDE THE TREATY. WITHOUT INDICATING THAT HE HAD ANY DEFINITE PLANS, MIKI SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO GO TO CHINA TO CONCLUDE THE PFT.

2. FONMIN MIYAZAWA THEN ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE NOTION THAT HIGHER LEVEL TALKS (PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL) MIGHT BE DESIRABLE AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE. MIYAZAWA ADDED THAT MINOR DIFFERENCES WITH PEKING ON PFT WOULD BE SUBMERGED IN MORE IMPORTANT COMMON (PRC-JAPAN) INTEREST (OF CONCLUDING THE TREATY).

3. ON HIS TALKS WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD, MIYAZAWA SAID THAT REPORTS OF THE TALKS HAD NOT BEEN MISTAKEN, BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN "CARELESS IN HIS EXPLANATIONS TO REPORTERS." HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRC-JAPAN RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY HIS REMARKS.. ON THE SAME SUBJECT, PM MIKI SAID, "THE NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS IS A PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED BY THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, AND JAPAN SHOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING ON THE MATTER. IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR JAPAN TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE US-TAIWAN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY." HE THEN ADDED, "FONMIN MIYAZAWA TAKES THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN MAKING STATEMENTS." ACCORDING TO FONOFF, PM MIKI ALSO REPEATED MIYAZAWA'S ORIGINAL STATEMENT THAT DRASTIC CHANGES IN THE AREA WOULD NOT BE WELCOME.

4. ON HIS REBUFF TO THE CHINESE FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES OF SUPPORT ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES, MIYAZAWA SAID, "I ONLY STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A NON-JAPANESE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER WITHIN JAPAN. ANYONE IS FREE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER OUTSIDE JAPAN." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: PM MIKI'S POSITIVE COMMENTS ON PRC-JAPAN RELATIONS, HIS STATED WILLINGNESS TO JOURNEY TO CHINA TO CONCLUDE THE PFT, COUPLED WITH MIYAZAWA'S SLIGHT APOLOGY AND SOFTER WORDS WERE DESIGNED TO SOOTHE IRRITATED CHINESE SENSIBILITIES. WE ASSUME THIS WILL HELP EVEN THOUGH MIKI HAS RATHER OBLIQUELY ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE THRUST OF MIYAZAWA'S COMMENT ON "DRASTIC CHANGES IN ASIA" AND ON CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

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6. (FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A CONFIDANT OF THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WHEN THE PM FIRST MET THE FONMIN AFTER THE MANSFIELD INCIDENT ESCALATED MIYAZAWA SAID TO MIKI, "I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SAN JUAN, WASHINGTON, ETC, AM TIRED AND I JUST MADE A MISTAKE.")

7. ALTHOUGH CHINESE MEDIA HAVE RELAYED CRITICISM BY FOREIGNERS OF MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS, PRC MEDIA HAVE NOT DIRECTLY CRITICIZED THE FONMIN

SINCE ITS BLAST JULY 19, JUST AFTER MOFA ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN SHEN P'ING CALLED IN AMBASSADOR OGAWA (TOKYO 10984). THIS MAY MEAN THAT THE INCIDENT, IF NOT THE ISSUE, IS CONCLUDED, WITH MIYAZAWA'S POPULARITY RATING LOWERED IN PEKING BUT WITHOUT LASTING HARM TO PRC-JAPAN RELATIONS. CHINESE FOREBEARANCE MAY ALSO REFLECT PEKING'S APPRECIATION OF REALITIES INVOLVED IN FOUR POWER RELATIONS IN THE AREA AND OF THE DELICATE ASPECTS OF ALL OUR RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. AS CORROBORATING EVIDENCE, A FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD US JULY 28 THAT A CHINESE OFFICIAL IN HONG KONG TOLD A JAPANESE CONGEN OFFICIAL THAT HE "UNDERSTOOD" WHY MIYAZAWA FELT AS HE DID AND WHY HE WANTED TO TELL THE US, BUT MIYAZAWA SHOULD NOT HAVE PUBLICIZED HIS VIEWS IN THE WAY HE DID. WHEN WE AKSED IF THE CHINESE OFFICIAL MIGHT NOT BE TA KONG PAO EDITOR FEI I-MIN, OUR JAPANESE FRIEND ANSWERED, "PROBABLY." (THIS ANECDOTE SHOULD BE TREATED AS NOFORN).
SHOESMITH

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